

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants submit that the newly presented claims refer to a coating for a substrate and are thus clear. Applicant has deleted the feature "directly on the substrate" formerly in claim 15 (now claim 27). From this change it is now believed to be clear to a person skilled in the art that a further dielectric oxide is provided between the first transparent Si_3N_4 or SiN_x layer and the semimetallic layer. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-15 and 17-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Coustet.

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Coustet and Lingle. Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections.

According to new claim 25, the coating has the following composition (compare also figure 1):

1. a transparent layer (Si_3N_4 or SiN_x), being disposed directly on the substrate
2. a semimetallic layer (e.g. CrN)
3. a dielectric oxide (Al_2O_3 , SiO_2 , SnO , Nb_2O_5 , TiO_2)
4. a transparent layer (Si_3N_4)

Such a coating is not taught or suggested by Coustet. Coustet discloses an absorbent layer which is disposed between two layers of one comprises a nitride, i.e., for instance, substrate/nitride/absorbent layer/oxide (first variant, paragraph [0020]) or substrate/oxide/absorbent layer/nitride (second variant, paragraph [0022]). The dielectric layer may be silicon nitride (paragraph [0019]) and the oxide layer may be tin oxide, silicon oxide or niobium oxide (paragraph [0023]).

Coustet, however, does not disclose that a further layer of Si_3N_4 , is disposed on the layer which is disposed directly on the semimetallic layer (compare figure 1, layer 6). Thus, all claims are believed to be patentable over Coustet.

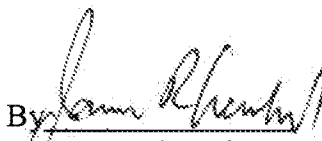
Furthermore, claim 16 was rejected for allegedly being obvious in view of Coustet and Lingle. It is not believed that any claims are obvious over Coustet either alone or with Lingle, for reasons set forth above, since Lingle fails to overcome the deficiencies of Coustet.

In view of the foregoing, allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0624, under Order No. NY-SANZ-278-US. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted

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